

Remarks

The Office Action mailed October 12, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

The Commissioner is asked to consider this a petition for a one-month extension of time to and including January 17, 2007, to file this Response and is hereby authorized to charge deposit account number 01-2384 for the one-month extension of time set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1) of \$120.00.

Claims 1-7 and 21-22 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-4 and 21-22 stand rejected. Claims 5-7 stand objected to. Claims 8-20 are canceled.

The rejections of Claims 1-3, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Campbell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,789,061) in view of Kondo et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0035249), and Claims 4, 21, and 22 further in view of David (U.S. Patent No. 4,854,990), are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate certain limitations of dependent Claim 5. Dependent Claim 5 is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that with this amendment, Claim 1 is patentable over Campbell et al. in view of Kondo et al.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 21, and 22 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2, 3, 4, 21, and 22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 3, 4, 21, and 22 likewise are patentable over Campbell et al. in view of Kondo et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejections of Claims 1-3, 21, and 22 and Claims 4, 21, and 22 be withdrawn.

Finally, Examiner states that Claims 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants

have amended Claim 1 to include certain limitations of Claim 5. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment places Claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claims 5-7 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 5-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 5-7 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments place all pending claims in condition for allowance and requests that all objections and rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrew Kefalonitis Jr.
Registration No. 57,240
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070